

Huge Sum Lost By Government In Selling Brass

Three Bidders Default and
After Delays a Fourth Gets
56,200,000 Pounds From
Army on Falling Market

Year's Wait Cuts Price

Had Certified Checks Been
Required These Would Be
Forfeited to Treasury

From The Tribune's Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—Federal
operatives are working secretly on an
investigation of bids submitted to the
War Department for the purchase of
about 56,200,000 pounds of brass.

The three bidders considered the
highest, it is said, have already fallen
down, and the government is now said
to be negotiating with a fourth, with a
promising prospect that the brass will
be given to the Buffalo House Wreck-
ing Company, whose bid of \$5,174
cents a hundred pounds was at first
thought to be very low indeed.

This remarkable situation was
brought about by the fact that the de-
partment, in calling for bids, did not
resort to the ordinary precaution of
requiring the bidders to submit cer-
tified checks as an evidence of good
faith, and as a guaranty to the gov-
ernment that if their bids were ac-
cepted they would either carry them
out or else forfeit to the government
the sums represented by the checks.

As a result there is a suspicion in
the mind of some government officials
which has resulted in the present in-
vestigation.

The first high bidder to whom the
contract was awarded was a former
major in the ordnance department. He
put in a bid for the brass, which was
acquired originally by the government
with a view to manufacturing shells,
with the specification that he would
take the material at the regular
market price, less two cents a pound
for refining.

It is learned that the major dis-
covered that while his proposition sounded
well, the bankers did not like the looks
of it in view of present market con-
ditions. They recognized, it is said, that
while the profit which might be made
on the two cents a pound allowance for
refining might be very good in normal
times, it did not compensate for being
compelled to pay the market price dur-
ing a period of falling prices, when it
might be very difficult to obtain what
might be considered the market price
for anything.

Therefore, apparently, the major
failed to obtain the financial backing
necessary to carry on a deal involving
millions, so that he was compelled to
forfeit his bid. Under normal circum-
stances the government would have
been ahead just the amount of his cer-
tified check, to compensate it for the
delay, but not having called for cer-
tified checks when the bids were re-
quested, the government was compelled
to go on down the list of bidders.

A great many members of Congress
would like to know just why the gov-
ernment, or Secretary of War Baker
to be specific, held this brass for two
years after it was known that it would
not be needed and thus let pass a
series of real shortages just following
the armistice. It is considered, how-
ever, to be in line with the general
policy of the department in such mat-
ters, the aim apparently having been
a desperate effort to hold up prices at
a time when prices were sky high, fol-
lowed by an attempt to realize cash
after the bottom had dropped out.

An instance is cited of where a New
York concern made a bid on some mil-
lions of pounds of castor oil at four-
teen and a fraction cents a pound. It
was refused by the War Department.
Later the department called on the
concern and asked for a bid. The con-
cern then offered 10 cents a pound.
The department then asked the concern
again asked this concern for a bid and
been offered five and a fraction cents.
Belief on Capitol Hill is that the
loss to the Federal Treasury result-
ing from such sales and attempted
sales as this have run up on into
the millions of dollars, and a Congres-
sional inquiry is being considered.

A large contractor told The Tribune
correspondent to-day that if it were
possible his concern would like to pay
\$1,000,000 bonus to a company which
was awarded a contract recently by the
War Department and take the contract
off the successful bidder's hands. This
particular contract was awarded some
time after the bids had been opened,
and the successful contractor was
permitted to "interpret" his bid, the
"interpretation," according to The
Tribune's informant, actually changing
the bid made by millions of dollars.

Girl Held as Decoy in
Old-Time Badger Game

Accuser Says She Asked Him to
Escort Her as Guard
Against Robbers

Opal Mack, eighteen years old, of 251
West Twenty-first Street, and John
Paddy, thirty-two years old, of the
same address, were arraigned in the
Jefferson Market court yesterday be-
fore Magistrate Charles E. Simma,
charged with robbery. The police al-
lege that the pair were playing the old
"badger game."

George Watt, of 645 Manhattan Ave-
nue, Brooklyn, appeared as the com-
plainant. Watt told the court that he
was accosted by the couple at Twenty-
third Street and Sixth Avenue Wednes-
day night and that she said she was
afraid to walk home alone because of
the numerous hold-ups recently, and
requested Watt to accompany her to
her door.

The complainant charged that he es-
corted the girl to the door of her home,
in Twenty-first Street, where she
detained him in conversation for sev-
eral minutes. While they were talk-
ing, Watt alleges, Paddy entered the
way of the house and accused
Watt of forcing his attentions on
Paddy's wife. Watt said the man
struck him before he could make an ex-
planation, and that the two then pro-
ceeded to take his watch, valued at \$65,
a stickpin from him. After rob-
bing him, Watt said, the pair entered
the house and locked the door.

Watt went to the Twentieth Street
police station and returned with De-
tective Sergeant Joseph Anderson and
Harry Porter to the house in West
Twenty-fifth Street.

Both Paddy and Miss Mack waived
examination.

Colby Reaches Trinidad

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, Jan. 20.—
Senator Colby, United States Sec-
retary of State, and his party arrived
here yesterday aboard the battleship
Florida, on the way home from South
America. Various entertainments will
be given. Secretary Colby's honor-
able afternoon, culminating in a public
dinner to-night. The Florida will sail
on Thursday.

Wife Plunges to Death From Hospital Window

Removes Screen and Squeezes
Through Bars for Six-Floor
Leap; Husband a Patient

Worry over the illness of her hus-
band is held responsible for the suicide
yesterday of Mrs. Dagmar Bezelius, a
patient in the New York Hospital, who
plunged from a window on the sixth
floor of that institution. Mrs. Bezelius
was twenty-two years old and lived at
38 West Fifty-seventh Street.

Redney Bezelius, her husband, was
taken to the hospital on January 15,
suffering with pneumonia, and at the
time of her fatal leap, occupied a room
on the eighth floor. He has not been
told of the suicide because of his critical
condition.

Mrs. Bezelius was being treated for
a nervous breakdown, caused by her
husband's illness, and it was while her
nurse was absent temporarily that she
removed a screen from a window,
squeezed through iron bars and jumped.
James Rooney, a night attendant at
the hospital, heard Mrs. Bezelius fall
and found her body in the yard. She
died within a half hour.

Mrs. R. Berg Von Linde, wife of an
exporter, living at 43 East Fifty-eighth
Street and a close friend of Mr. and
Mrs. Bezelius, said the couple came to
this country just after their marriage
in Stockholm two years ago. He was
an officer in the Swedish army. He
came to this country to study banking
and had been employed at the Irving
National Bank, Broadway and
Park Place, as a volunteer worker.

Open Shop Held True U.S. Standard of Equality

Manufacturer Charges Labor
Seeks Ban on Immigration to
Cause Shortage of Workers

CHICAGO, Jan. 20.—The open shop
is the only true American standard in
which no one receives special privi-
leges and all have an equal chance, de-
clared Stephen C. Mason, president of
the National Association of Manu-
facturers, before a meeting of mem-
bers of the association here to-day.

Mr. Mason emphasized the fact that
the association had favored the open
shop for years.

"As American citizens we must do all
in our power to quell the spirit of dis-
content that rests on the country at
present," Mr. Mason said. "Congress
can do much by removing the govern-
ment shackles on private business. We
must meet organization with organiza-
tion."

The immigration question also was
discussed by the speaker, who said:
"We should not restrict immigration.
The labor organizations are trying to
do so. They want to cause a shortage
in labor—thereby sending wages sky
high."

Mr. Mason advocated the abolish-
ment of the excess profits tax and said
that the seamen's bill was absolutely
essential if we have any kind of a
merchant marine.

Major Miller Wins Suit, But Wife Retains Letters

The application of Mrs. Edna Grace
Miller for a separation from her hus-
band, Major "Cyclone" Henry C. Miller,
who is employed by the Metropolitan
Life Insurance Company, was denied
yesterday by Justice Leander B. Faber
in the Queens County Supreme Court.
There is a possibility of litigation
over the letters of Miss Maud Biggs,
daughter of General Sir Thomas Biggs
of the British army, which were pro-
duced at the trial by Mrs. Miller. The
letters, which were written to Major
Miller by Miss Biggs, who was an of-
ficer in the Women's Auxiliary Army
Corps under the major's charge in
France, were returned to the clerk of
the court for delivery to Mrs. Miller.
Major Miller demanded the letters, but
the plaintiff's attorney said Mrs. Miller
would retain a safe deposit box and re-
tain them.

On the stand Major Miller said he
loved his wife, and would return to her
at any time. He said much of their
trouble was caused by his mother-in-
law. Mrs. Miller is living at 9116
Eighty-sixth Drive, Richmond Hill, with
her parents.

British Ship Pact Charged To I. M. M. Co.

(Continued from first page)

after referred to as 'the American com-
pany,' of the second part, and the
Oceanic Steam Navigation Company
(limited), Frederick Leyland & Co.
(1900) (limited), the British and North
Atlantic Steam Navigation Company
(limited) and the Mississippi and Do-
minion Steamship Company (limited),
the third part.

"This agreement shall have effect
for twenty years from the 27th of Sep-
tember, 1902, and shall continue in
force thereafter subject to a notice of
five years on either side (which may
be given during the continuance of this
agreement), provided that His Maj-
esty's Government shall have the right
to terminate this agreement at any
time if the association pursue a policy
injurious to the interest of the British
mercantile marine or of British trade.

Britain Has Final Word
"In case any difference as to the
intent and meaning of this agreement,
or in case of any dispute arising out
of this agreement, the same shall be
referred to the Lord High Chancellor
of Great Britain for the time being,
whose decision, whether on law or fact,
shall be final."

As "witting or unwitting agents of
British shipping interests in the cam-
paign to throttle the growing Ameri-
can merchant marine," Senator Jones
named the United States Chamber of
Commerce and a magazine published
by an agent of the Shipping Board
at New York, who, he said, had formerly
been in the employ of the Internation-
al Mercantile Marine Company, inter-
national bankers and the heads of
great railroad and steamship com-
panies.

Senator Jones also charged that one
of the methods used by British ship-
ping interests is to hamper the devel-
opment of the American merchant ma-
rine through encouraging the Eastern
trunk line railroads to seek the can-
cellation of existing equalized export
freight rates to all Atlantic ports. A
principal figure in this movement, Mr.
Jones added, was Delos W. Cooke,
"American director of the British-
owned Cunard Line and chairman of a
committee of the Chamber of Com-
merce for the State of New York, ap-
pointed to deal with export freight rate
questions." He also declared that Mr.
Franklin was a vice-president of the
Chamber of Commerce.

Charges Unfair, Says Franklin
As Senator Jones finished speaking
and started to leave the hall President
Franklin, of the International Mercan-
tile Marine Company, asked him to re-
main while he replied to the charges
made against the company.

"Who now in the Shipping Board
is in the employ of our company?"

"A Mr. Randall, I think."

"He never was in our employ," said
Mr. Franklin. "Furthermore, you stated
that I am a vice-president of the Cham-
ber of Commerce of the State of New
York. I hold no office there at present."

"Regarding the charges made by the
Senator, he is unfair to us. All of the
agreements referred to have been be-
tween the Shipping Board, have been
passed by the board and declared sat-
isfactory. If these documents are read
from the standpoint that the company
owns a large amount of British prop-
erty, you will find that there is also
a large protection for American in-
terests."

"At one time we had our British
property all sold to British subjects.
The deal was about to be closed when
the President of the United States
asked us not to consummate it. After-
ward the ships were sold to the United
States, but the President stopped that
also."

Senator Jones left at this point, de-
claring that Mr. Franklin could lay
down the facts he pleased before the con-
vention.

All Directors of Company Americans
"It is unfair for a Senator of the
United States to make statements that
are incorrect," continued Mr. Franklin.
"The International Mercantile Marine
Company is absolutely American. The
directors are all Americans and 97
per cent of the stock is American."

Farrell's Mind Blank on Fight With Hinton

Balloonist, Visibly Feeble,
Tells Navy Court He
Seemed to Lose His Reason
When at Mattice

Prayed for Deliverance

Admits Fainting Several
Times and Begging to Be
Left Behind on the Trail

Into the bare room at the Rockaway
Air Station, where the naval court of
inquiry is investigating the circum-
stances surrounding the flight of the
free balloon A-5598, there came unex-
pectedly yesterday Lieutenant Stephen
A. Farrell straight from his sick bed
in the post hospital. He came to bury
the differences of the past and to tell
in simple sailor language a story of
bitter suffering. He was accompanied
by his attorney, David Sent.

The entrance of Lieutenant Farrell
caused a sudden hush in the court-
room. He walked unassisted, but with
feeble gait, and upon his face there
were marks of suffering. All in the
court watched him intently but silent-
ly. He walked over to the table around
which Rear Admiral George Kline and
the other officers of the court were
seated and then glanced around until
his eyes fell upon Lieutenant Walter
Hinton, the comrade of the balloon trip
he had struck with his fist in the loc
hut at Mattice, Ontario. Farrell smiled
eagerly and said:

"Hello, Walter."

Admits Prayer for Aid

The formalities of swearing in com-
pleted, Farrell settled down and told
with unexpected ease his story of the
famous flight. He told of those tense
moments in the wilderness when he
thought all was lost and he uttered a
fervent prayer for deliverance.

"It was not said in a devout way," he
added, "but simply as an ordinary fel-
low would say a prayer. It was the
only prayer that was said aloud by any
member of the party at any time that
I heard. The going seemed to be par-
ticularly rough, especially for myself."

Coming to the unfortunate incident
at Mattice when he struck Hinton,
Farrell said:

"I reached Mattice half an hour
after Lieutenant Kloor and Hinton and
I was dog tired. I was immedi-
ately besieged by newspaper men and was
subjected to so much questioning that
I was almost worn out. I told them to
get the story from Kloor, but they
asked me to tell something of the trip,
and the questions continued. The re-
sult seemed to drive me silly."

"I seemed to be fast losing my sense
of reasoning power. I remember one
fellow telling me about things that had
been published about me in the papers.
I seemed to get all excited. I really do
not know what I did or said, but I
heard somebody say 'You must stop
your swearing.' I apologized for swear-
ing."

"After that there was some general
movement about the place and I seemed
to lose all sense of reason. I was
shaking all over with nervousness
when this man took me out of the place
to the Hudson's Bay store. From there
I was taken to the railroad car. I
seemed to be doped and dog tired and
all in. I lay down. I was so nervous
I could not sleep. Kloor told me after
I got up that I had had a mess with
Hinton and the newspaper men and I
scarcely remembered seeing them."

Feared He'd "Go Nutty"

"I told him that I would go nutty
if they didn't look out. They put me
to bed and kept me there for a couple
of hours. I did not eat, but sat around
smoking cigarettes. The next morning
Kloor said I had to apologize to Hinton
because I had treated him rough. I
did so and Hinton and I are still the
same good friends that we have always
been."

As he finished this part of his testi-
mony Farrell turned and glanced at
Hinton, who had sat motionless
throughout. The smile that illumined
both their faces was ample corrobora-
tion of the statement. Concerning the
experiences of the three airmen during
their four days of wandering in the
frozen wilderness, before they sighted
the Indian, Farrell said:

"We discussed everything under the
sun, and talked about our friends and
other mates. We realized that our
friends would think we had been
bumped off and wondered who would
have our jobs at the station. I told
them a story told me by Mr. Blackman
at the time we got our new command-
ing officer. Mr. Blackman said that
somebody always got bumped off at the
air station after a new C. O. came in."

His description of the incident men-
tioned in the letter of Hinton to his
wife, wherein Hinton said Farrell had
asked to be killed and his body used
for food by his two comrades was de-
scribed by Farrell as follows:

"I had two bad falls on the third
day. I guess it was about noon when
I had a very bad fall. My stomach had
been bothering me all morning, espe-
cially after one fall. I was quite
thirsty and made a couple of trips to
the river for water, which put me fur-
ther behind."

"When I got up after the last fall I
was very weak. I called to Hinton to
come back. He did so. I told him
I could go no further and asked him
to make a fire for me. He sort of
razed me to keep on. He said we
must make time. I said: 'All right,
make a fire for me. I will follow
your tracks in a little while.' He said:
'Do you want to make that proposition
to Kloor?' That is, I think he said it."

"I was failing fast and fell again
at that point. I must have fainted
dead away, because the next thing I
knew Kloor was 'helping me up and
the first thing I heard him say was
that nobody was going to follow any
tracks. I think that was what he
said."

The hearing will be continued to-day,
when it is expected Lieutenant Hinton
will be cross-examined.

Driver Fined Despite Plea

Of Watering Milk by Mistake

"Guilty by mistake" was the plea of
Edward Doell, a milk wagon driver who
was arraigned before Magistrate Cobb
in the Municipal Term Court yesterday,
charged with pouring water in a can
of milk.

Doell said he must have been "star-
gazing" at the time, but his excuse was
not accepted after the court had ascer-
tained that the prisoner had been fined
on three previous occasions for viola-
tion of the Sanitary Code. The driver
was fined \$25.

Saks & Company

BROADWAY At 34th STREET

Announce the Inauguration of
New Low Prices in

Women's Lisle Hose

every pair perfect and bought
for our regular stock

At 50c Formerly 65c to 85c

At \$1.00 Formerly \$1.50 to \$1.75

Seamless Lisle Hose
in medium weight, re-
inforced at garter
top, sole, toe and
heel. Shades of
cordovan, field
mouse, smoke and
navy, as well as black
and white. Regular
and extra sizes.

Formerly \$1.65 to \$1.85

Lisle Hose of excellent quality, in me-
dium and cobweb weights, with re-
inforced garter top, toe and heel. Full-
fashioned. Regular and extra sizes.
Black, white and cordovan.

Women's
Pure Thread Silk Hose

Regularly \$2.15

Friday \$1.65

Excellent quality pure thread silk hose,
full-fashioned, with reinforced lisle garter
top, toe and heel. In all the fashionable
street and evening shades.

Main Floor.

Saks & Company

BROADWAY At 34th STREET

Offer To-day and Saturday

MEN'S

Blanket Robes

Regularly 7.95

At 5.95

Just one hundred robes, made of
fine Beacon Blanket Cloth, in a
variety of smart patterns. Small
and medium sizes.

At 7.50 Regularly 10.80

Men's Beacon Blanket Robes in coat
model, with bordered bottoms and sleeves.
All sizes, including extra large.

At 10.25 Regularly 15.75

Men's Beacon Blanket Robes of a very
superior quality. Silk corded throughout
—every seam doubly reinforced. All sizes.

FIFTH FLOOR

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE Y. M. C. A.

OF all its activities for improving the
material welfare and uplifting the
standards of young manhood, National
Thrift Week is one of the greatest projects
ever undertaken by the Y. M. C. A.

The recognition of the fact that the young
man's problems today are economic as
well as spiritual is helping young men to
attain greater results in the line of duty
and to make a life as well as to make a
living.

To save money is to display ability and
those who will not learn the lesson of
thrift today must be prepared to learn a
harder lesson later.

More power to the Y. M. C. A.!

REALTY ASSOCIATES
INVESTMENT CORPORATION

31 Nassau St., New York 162 Remsen St., Brooklyn

J. M. Gidding & Co.

564 565 566 Fifth Avenue At 40th St. N.Y.

FOR

PALM BEACH

AND

SOUTHERN
WEAR

SMART SPORT CLOTHES
AND OTHER DAY OR

EVENING APPAREL